

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Former Payson, Illinois Postal Worker Charged with Fraud**

Springfield, IL – A federal grand jury today charged a former relief postmaster at Payson, Illinois, with issuing fraudulent postal money orders, as announced by Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois. Malinda A. Pryor, age 34, of 1316 Jackson Street, Quincy, Illinois, was charged with one count of fraudulent issuance of postal money orders.

The indictment alleges that from about August 2003 and continuing to about August 2004, Pryor issued approximately 103 postal money orders with a total value of \$37,026.71 without receiving payment from anyone for them. Of the 103 money orders, 43 were allegedly payable to herself. The remaining money orders were payable to her relatives, a former relative or to persons or businesses to whom either she owed money or to whom her relatives or a friend owed money.

If convicted, the statutory penalty is up to five years in prison, a fine of \$250,000. Pryor will be issued a summons to appear in federal court in Springfield.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Chesley.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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